

30 March 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Advisor for Management

FROM: General Counsel

SUBJECT: Awards and Decorations

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It is noted that the covert offices request a total of [redacted] Medals of Merit for a two-year period. As of March 1948, [redacted] persons had received the Medal of Merit since its establishment in July 1942. Of that list, four were in OSS. Mr. Allan Dulles as "Chief of the foremost under cover operations conducted by OSS", Mr. James R. Murphy who "created and operated first comprehensive, centrally controlled American counter-espionage service", Dr. William L. Langer "Chief, Research & Analysis Branch, OSS", and Mr. Whitney H. Shepardson "leader in establishment of network of secret agents throughout the world, who operated behind lines and obtained information vital to conduct of war". In addition, Dr. Chadwell, AD/OSI has received the award. It would, therefore, appear that the quota requested is excessive, and you may wish to have the offices reconsider.

Army regulation 600-45 indicates the possibility of processing applications for military decorations to persons not assigned to the military directly to the President. However, no statutory authority for this has been found, and it would be necessary to discuss this point with officials in the Pentagon to find out the basis on which such action could be taken.

Lawrence R. Houston

WL.Pforzheimer:blc

Subject
Chrono